



Patent  
Attorney's Docket No. 033048-019

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|                                |   |                        |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| In re Patent Application of    | ) | <b>MAIL STOP AF</b>    |
| Paul Kennedy                   | ) |                        |
| Application No.: 09/841,008    | ) | Group Art Unit: 2131   |
| Filed: April 25, 2001          | ) | Examiner: CHRISTIAN A  |
| For: ACCESS AUTHENTICATION FOR | ) | LAFORGIA               |
| DISTRIBUTED NETWORKS           | ) | Confirmation No.: 4932 |
|                                | ) |                        |
|                                | ) |                        |
|                                | ) |                        |

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 7, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims.

Claims 9-12, 14-18, 20-23 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, on the basis of the newly-cited Aldred et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,549) in view of the Byrne et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,708,170). Claims 13, 19 and 24 were rejected on the basis of these two patents, and further in view of the Pang et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,446,204). It is respectfully submitted that these patents do not suggest the claimed subject matter to a person of ordinary skill in the art, whether they are considered individually or in combination.

Claim 9 recites a method for authenticating users to individual network devices. The first step of this method is storing a directory structure. This directory comprises a root node, a first level of nodes below the root node that are associated with respective organizations to which the network devices are assigned, and at least one further level of nodes below the first level that identify users who are

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